

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /045 W

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O R 061540Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 8529

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1230

USIAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TSUBJ: STATUS REPORT FOR MRS. GALLAGHER AND MRS. DYKES

1. LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TODAY TOLD US THAT
DYKES FAMILY LETTER TO BILL DYKES HAD BEEN
DELIVERED, BUT THAT ABDUCTORS HAD, AS IN PAST, PREMITTED
NO RESPONSE.

2. SOURCE WE HAVE DESCRIBED IN PAST AS "WELL INFORMED"
WAS IN TOUCH WITH US YESTERDAY AND HAD NOTHING NEGATIVE
TO REPORT ON CONDITION OF TWO KIDNAPPED USIA
OFFICERS. HE DESCRIBED PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCES
WITHIN PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND IN SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN
RELATIONS AS FAVORABLE TO RELEASE OF OFFICERS, BUT
CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY PREMATURE PUBLICITY.

3. PRIOR TO RECEIVING ABOVE REPORT, WE HAD BEEN WEIGHING
PROS AND CONS OF "GOINROPUBLIC" ON CASE. WE NOW BELIEVE
THAT ON BALANCE PUBLIC SILENCE IS NECESSARY FOR THEE
MOMENT. WHILE NECESSARY, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT, FOR WE
ARE RECEIVING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICAN PRESS
INQUIRIES ON CASE.

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4. AS SITUATION RIPENS, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR

EFFORTS TO KEEP ATTENTION OF HIGHEST LEVELS OF LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT ACTIVE ON CASE. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER TAKLA TODAY. LATTER CONFIRMED
THAT CASE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN CABINET MEETING
WEDNESDAY AND THAT PRIME MINISTER KARAME, IN HIS
CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAD ISSUED FORMAL
INSTRUCTIONS TO HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE TO TAKE CASE
UP AS PART OF EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF TWO OFFICERS.

5. UNLESS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT OTHERWISE, I PLAN
SEND YOUR NEXT STATUS REPORT ON MONDAY.
ROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: ATHENS
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